Sheriffes, Juſtices of Peace and other inferiour Officers whatſoever, ſhall be aiding and aſſiſting to the ſaid Committees, Deputy-Lieutenants, and aſſiſtants in the execution of the premiſes, and that the ſaid Commiſſioners, Officers, and aſſiſtants, and every of them, and all and every other Perſon and Perſons that ſhall be aiding and aſſiſting to them in the execution of the premiſes ſhall be protected, and for ever ſaved harmeleſse by the Authority and Power of both Houſes of Parliament.

And it is laſtly provided, that this preſent Ordinance, and the Authority hereby given, ſhall indure and have continnance for nine Moneths from the making hereof, and no longer.

FINIS

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FINIS

n°. 84

A DISCOVERY OF THE GREAT PLOT FOR The utter Ruine of the City of *LONDON* and the *PARLIAMENT*.

As it was at large made known by *John Pym* Esquire, on Thursday being the Eighth of *June*, 1643. At a *COMMON-HALL*.

And afterwards Corrected by his owne hand for the Presse.

LONDON,
Printed for *Peter Cole*, at the Glove and Lyon in Cornhill, neer the Royall Exchange. 1643.

JOHN PYM Esquire his Speech.

MY Lord *Major*, and you worthy Citizens of this famous and Magnificent City, Wee are sent hither to you from the House of Commons, to make knowne to you the discovery of a great and mischievous Designe, tending not only to the ruin and destruction of the City and of the Kingdom; but in those Ruines, likewise to have buried Religion and liberty, I might call it a strange Design, though in these late times designs of this kind have been very frequent, because it exceeds others in divers considerable circumstances of it; In the malice of the intention, subtilty of contrivance, extent of mischiefe, and neerneſſe of execution, all which arose from the wickedneſſe of the Authors: Two others may be added, that is, the cleerneſſe of the discovery and proofe, and the greatneſſe of the deliverance, proceeding from the great mercies of God.

I shall in the opening of this Designe, take this course for my own memory and yours. Observe first, what was in their ayms. Secondly, the variety of preparations. Thirdly, the degrees of proceeding. Fourthly, the maturity and readineſſe for execution.

The Parliament, the City, and the Army, seem to be the three Vitall parts of this Kingdome; wherein not only the well being, but the very life and being of it doth consist; this mischief would have seized upon all these at once.

The City should have beene put into such a combustion, as to have your swords imbrued in one anothers bloud: The Parliament should have been corrupted, and betrayed by their own Members: The Army destroyed, if not by force, yet for want of supply and maintenance, that so they might have had an open and a cleerer way to the rest, which they had in proposition, especially to that main and supreame end, the extirpation of Religion.

I shall tell you first, out of what principles this did rise, it was from the ashes of another Design that failed; that mutinous Petition which was contrived in this City, the Actors of that Petition being therein disappointed, they fell presently into consultation how they might compasse their former end in another way, that is, under pretence of securing themselves by force against the Ordinances of Parliament, and under pretence of procuring peace, they would have made themselves Masters of the City, yea of the whole Kingdome, and they would have ruin'd and destroyed all those that should have interrupted them in their mischievous intentions.

The first step in their preparation was to appoint a Committee that might often meet together, and consult how they might compasse this wicked end.

Their next was, that they might enable that Committee with intelligence both from the Armies, as well those on the Kings side (as they call themselves, though wee be of the Kings side indeed) as those that are raised by the Parliament, especially they were carefull to understand the proceedings of Parliament, that so by the advantage of this intelligence, they might the better effect that which they had in project, and find the readiest and the neareſt wayes to it.

After they had thus provided for intelligence, how they might procure power and countenance to this action, by some appearing authority from His Majesty; for which purpose, they projected to get a Commission from the King, whereby many of themselves, and of those that were of their own consort, should be established a Counsell of Warre in *London* and parts adjacent, with power to raise Forces, make provisions of Ammunition, and of other kinde of Armes, and to give authority for the leading and conducting of those Forces, and to raise money for the maintenance of them, and as it is expreſs'd in the Commission, for the destruction of the Army, under the command of *R*

bert Earle of *Essex*, raised by Authority from the two Houses of Parliament.

Having layd these ground, I shall in the next place discover to you, those that should have beene Actors and Agents in this busines, their severall qualifications and relations.

The first sort was some Members of the City, whereof there were divers, you shall hear the names out of the proof, and the next was (in their pretence, as they gave out) Members of the two Houses of Parliament, and the third sort, was two Gentlemen, Master *Waller*, and a brother in law of his, Master *Tomkins*, that were to be Agents betwixt the Parliament and the City, as they pretended; then a fourth sort was those that were to be Messengers to convey intelligence from this place to the Court at *Oxford*, and to other places where there should be occasion; and then the fift and last consisted but in one man, that we yet discover, and that was the Lord of *Falkland*, that kept correspondency with them from the Court; these were to be the Actors in this mischievous design.

They began then to think upon some other courses of very great advantage to themselves.

The first was of combination, how they might be more closely conjoyned one to another, and how they might be more secure from all others that were not of the same party; And for this purpose, there was devis'd a Protestation of secrecy, whereby as they were Christians, they did bind themselves to keep one anothers counsell, not to reveale that which they had knowledge off, which they were trusted with. And the second was, a warinesse in discovering the businesse to any of those who were to be brought into the plot, though they came in amongst them to be of them, they would not trust all of their own body, but they took this wary & subtile course, that no one man should acquaint above two in this businesse, that so if it came to examination, it should never go farther then three, by the same party that discovered it, and then those two had the like power, that any one of them might discover it to two others, that so still it might be confin'd within the number of three: then there was a speciall obligation (as was pretended by Master *Waller*) which he had made to those that he said were Members of both Houses of Parliament, and consenting to this Plot, but that is yet but a pretence, no names or parties are known.

After they had provided thus for their combination, and for their security; then in the next place, they thought of some meanes of augmentation how they might encrease their numbers, and draw in others to come to be of their party; and for this they did resolve to use all the Art and subtilty to irritate mens minds against the Parliament; they found out those that thought themselves most heavily burden'd with these taxes, they did cherish all that had any discontents about the Assessement, advising them to repair to the Committee for ease, which they knew would be difficult to obtain, and that they being disappointed would be more enraged, and the apter to joyn with them in this Plot.

From this care of augmentation, they went in the next place, to find out some means of discovery, that they might know how far their party did extend, who were of their side, and who were against them, and for this purpose they did devise that there should be a survey of all the Wards, nay of all the Parishes within the City of *London*, the Suburbs and places adjoyning in every Parish, to observe those that were for them, whom they called *right men*, and others that were against them *averse men*; and then a third sort whom they called *neutralls*, and *indifferent men*; and they appointed severall persons that were trusted with this survey and enquiry, to find out these severall degrees and sorts in every Parish.

Thus farre this design seems to be but a work of the brain, to consist only in invention and subtilty of design; but the other steps and degrees which I shall now observe to you, will make it to be a work of the hand, to bring it somewhat neerer to execution.

The first step that came into action and execution was, that they procur'd this Com-

miſſion which they had before deſigned, and endeavoured to obtaine: Now they had obtained a Commiſſion (as I told you before) to eſtabliſh certain men, ſeventeen in number, their names are there expreſs'd, you ſhall heare them read to you, they were to be a Counſell of Warre here within the City; theſe ſeventeen men they had power to name others to themſelves, to the number of twenty one, and they ſhould be enabled both to appoint, not only Collonels and Captaines, and other inferiour Officers of an *Army*, but to appoint and nominate a Generall; they had power to raiſe men, to raiſe Armes, Ammunition, and to doe all thoſe other things that I told you before, and to lay taxes and Impoſitions to raiſe money, and to execute Martiall-Law.

When they had gone thus farre, in the next place they did obtaine a Warrant from the King, and this was to Maſter *Challener*, that he might receive Money and Plate of all thoſe that either by voluntary contribution, or Loan, would furniſh the King (as they call'd it) in this neceſſity of His, and thereby the King was obliged to the repayment of it, this was obtain'd.

By this cometh in the liſt, that that was before part of the deſign, cometh now into act, the Citizens that were truſted with framing of this liſt, brought it in, except in ſome few Pariſhes: under thoſe heads of diſcovery that I formerly told you of; that is, in every Pariſh who were *right*, and who were *indifferent* and *neutrall*, and who were *averſe*, and thoſe were brought to Maſter *Wallers* Houſe, and after they had delivered that Liſt, the Citizens then declared themſelves that now they had done their part, they had diſcovered to them a foundation of ſtrength, they did expect from them again a foundation of countenance and Authority, that was from both Houſes of Parliament; and they did declare that they would proceed no farther, till they knew the names of thoſe Members of both Houſes that ſhould joyne with them, and ſhould undertake to countenance this buſines. Maſter *Waller* made this anſwer, that he did aſſure them that they ſhould have Members of both Houſes, both Lords and Commons to joyn with them, that he himſelfe he was but their Mouth, that he ſpoke not his owne words, but their words, that he was but their agent, and did their work, that they ſhould have of the ableſt, of the beſt, and of the greateſt Lords, and the greateſt number, nay, that they ſhould pick and chuſe, that they could not wiſh for a Lord, whom he doubted not, but to procure them; this was the vanity of his boaſting to draw them on, and to encourage them in this Plot.

This being done now, and propounded by the Citizens on their part, ſo Maſter *Waller* propounded from the Lords divers *quæries*, queſtions which had beene framed (as he ſayd) by the Lords and Commons, and in their name hee did preſent them, that were for the removal of difficulties, of ſome obſtructions that might hinder this work, thoſe *quæries* were delivered upon Friday was ſev'night to ſome of the Citizens, and upon the Saturday morning (that was Saturday was ſev'night) they were returned back again with anſwers.

I ſhall now relate to you, both the *quæries* and the Anſwers that were returned by thoſe of the City.

The firſt *quærie* was, what number of men there were Armed,

The Anſwer was, That there was a third part well armed, and a third part with Halberts, and another third part with what they could get, with that that came to hand.

The ſecond *quære* was, In what places the Magazines were laid?

The Anſwer to that was, At Alderman *Fowk's* houſe, at Leaden-Hall, and at Guild-Hall.

The third *quære* was, Where the Rendezvouz ſhould be?

The Anſwer was, At all the Gates, at the places of the Magazines, in Cheapſide, in the Exchange, and at what other places the Lords ſhould think fit.

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The fourth *Quere* was, Where the place of retreat, if there ſhould be occaſion?

The Anſwer was, that they had *Bamſtead* Downes they had Black Heath in propoſition, but they did referre the concluſion of the place to the Lords.

The fifth was, What Coulours there ſhould be?

To this it was anſwered, that at every Rendezvouz there ſhould be Coulours.

A ſixth conſideration was, By what marks and tokens they ſhould bee diſtinguiſhed from others, and know their friends from their enemies?

To that it was anſwered, that they ſhould have white Ribbands, or white Tape.

Then in the ſeventh place, it was asked, What ſtrength there was within the walls, and what ſtrength without the walls?

To that it was anſwered, that within the walls, there was for one with them, three againſt them; but without the walls: for one againſt them, there was five for them.

The eighth was, What was to be done with the Tower?

The Anſwer was, that they could conclude nothing in that point.

The ninth was, Where the chiefe Commanders dwelt?

To that they made this Anſwer, That every Pariſh could tell what new Commanders and Captaines they had, and who of the *Militia* dwelt in it.

The tenth and the laſt was, What time this ſhould be put in execution?

To that the Anſwer was, that the time was wholly left to the Lords.

After theſe *Queres* thus propunded and anſwered, Maſter *VValler* told them that he would acquaint the Lords with thoſe Anſwers that he had received from them to their *Quæres*, and wiſhed them not to be troubled, though the Lords did not yet declare themſelves, for they could doe them as good ſervice in the Houſe.

Being proceeded thus farre, they came then to ſome propoſitions which ſhould be put in execution, and they were theſe:

Firſt, that they would take into their cuſtodie the Kings children that were here.

The ſecond was, that they would lay hold of all thoſe perſons that they thought ſhould be able to ſtand in their way, or to give them any impediment, or atleaſt of ſome conſiderable number of them, it is unlike that all were named, but ſome were named; Of the Lords Houſe there was named my Lord *Say*, and my Lord *VVharton*: and beſides my Lord Major, whom they took into their conſideration, as the head of the City; there was named of the Houſe of Commons, Sir *Philip Stapleton*, Maſter *Hambden*, Maſter *Strode*, and they did me the honour and the favour to name me too,

When they had taken into conſideration the ſurpriſall of theſe Members of both Houſes, they did take into their further reſolution, that with my Lord Major ſhould have been ſeized all your Committee of *Militia*, they would not ſpare one of them.

They intended further, that they would releaſe all Priſoners that had been committed by the Parliament, that they would ſeize upon the Magazines, that they would make a declaration to ſatisfie the people.

There are no Deſignes, be they never ſo ill, but they doe put on a maske of ſome good, for betwixt that that is abſolutely and apparently ill, there is no congruity with the will of man, and therefore the worſt of evils are undertaken under a ſhadow and a ſhew of goodneſſe; this Declaration muſt be ſet out, to make the people believe that they ſtood up for the *The preſervation of Religion, For the preſervation of the the Kings Prerogative, Of the Liberties of the Subject, Of the Priviledges of Parliament*; and of theſe 1000. were to be printed, they were to bee ſet upon Poſts and Gates in the moſt conſiderable and open places: and then were to be diſperſed as much as they could thorow the City againſt the time it

ſhould be put in execution: this was done upon Saturday laſt was ſeven-night in the morning.

Then in the next place, they thought fit to give intelligence to the Court of what proceedings they had made here, and thereupon Maſter *Hazel* he was ſent to *Oxford*, that very Saturdy in the afternoon, from Maſter *Wallers* houſe, there were two Meſſages ſent by him, for this maine Deſigne they would not truſt in writing, the firſt Meſſage was from Maſter *Waller*, it was that he ſhould tell my Lord of *Falkland* that hee would give him a more full notice of the great buſineſſe very ſpeedily; the other Meſſage was from Maſter *Tomkins*, and that was, That the Deſigne was now come to good maturity; that they had got ſo ſtrong a party in the City, that though it were diſcovered, yet they would be able to put it in execution: They promiſed to give notice to the King of the very day, and if it were poſſible, of the very houre wherein this ſhould be put in execution; and then they did deſire, That when they had ſeized upon the Out-works that there might ſome party of the Kings Army come up within fifteen miles of the City, who upon knowledge of their proceedings muſt be admitted into the City. Theſe were the foure points upon which the Meſſage did conſiſt, which was ſent from Maſter *Tomkins* to my Lord of *Falkland*, by Maſter *Hazel*. To both theſe Meſſages my Lord of *Falkland* returned an Anſwer by word of mouth, they kept themſelves ſo cloſely that they durſt not venture to write, but hee bid the Meſſenger to tell Maſter *Waller*, Maſter *Tomkings*, and Maſter *Hambden* (a Gentleman, that was ſent up with a Meſſage from the King, and remained here in Town to agitate this buſineſſe) made that uſe of his being here in Town, that hee ſhould tell them, that hee could not well write, but did excuſe himſelfe, but prayed them that they would uſe all poſſible haſt in the main buſineſſe.

Maſter *Waller* having plotted it, and brought it on thus farre, now he began to think of putting it further, and the Tuſeday following this Saturday, which was Tuſeday was ſ'night in the evening, after he came home to his lodging; Maſter *Tomkins* and he being together, he told Maſter *Tomkins*, that the very next morning, that was Wedneſday, the the Faſt day, he ſhould goe to my Lord of *Holland*, and acquaint him with this plot, diſcover ſo much to him as he thought fit, that he himſelfe would goe to ſome other Lords, and doe the like: this was the Tuſeday night, in which conference they had put on that confidence in expectation of ſucceſſe in this plot, that Maſter *Waller* broke out with a great Oath, to affirme, that if they did carry this throughout, then we will have any thing. This he ſpake to Maſter *Tomkins* with a very great deale of earneſtneſſe and aſſurance: So far they went on in hope and expectation but here they were cut ſhort: That very night there were Warrants iſſued (upon ſome diſcoveries that were made of this plot) to the Lord Major, to the Sheriffes here, which they did execute with ſo much diligence and care of the good of the City, that the next morning when Maſter *Tomkins* and Maſter *Waller* ſhould have gone about their buſineſſe; they were apprehended, and the reſt of the Citizens, divers of them, ſome eſcaped.

Thus farre I have diſcovered to you the materials and the lineaments of this miſchievous Deſigne; you ſhall now be pleaſed to heare the Prooſes and the Confeſſions out of which this narration doth ariſe, and that will make all this good to you that I have ſaid; and after thoſe are read, I ſhall then tell you what hath been done ſince in the Houſe of Commons, ſomewhat in the Houſe of Lords, and what elſe is in propoſition to be offered to you from the Houſe of Commons; but I ſhall deſire you firſt that you may bee fully convinced of the great goodneſſe of God in diſcovery of this plot, and the truth of theſe things that I have ſpoken to you, that you will heare the evidence of the prooſes, and then we ſhall goe on to thoſe other things which we have in charge.

JOHN PYM Esquire his second Speech.

GEntlemen, we have held you long, you are now almost come to the end of your trouble; I am to deliver to you some short observations upon the whole matter, and then to acquaint you with the resolutions thereupon, taken in the House of Commons; and to conclude with a few desires from them to you.

The observations are these: First I am to observe to you, the contrariety betwixt the pretences with which this Designe hath been mask'd, and the truth: One of the pretences was peace, the truth was bloud and violence; Another of the pretences was, the preserving of propriety, the truth was, the introducing of of tyranny and slavery, which leaves no man master of any thing he hath.

A second observation is this: The unnaturall way by which they meant to compasse this wicked Designe, that was to destroy the Parliament, by the Members of Parliament; and then by the Carcasse and Shadow of a Parliament to destroy the Kingdome; what is a Parliament but a Carcasse, when the freedome of it is suppressed: when those shall be taken away by violence, that can or will oppose and stand in the way of their intentions: The High Court of Parliament is the most certaine and constant Guardion of Liberty; but if it be deprived of its owne Liberty; it is left without life or power to keep the Liberty of others; If they should bring a Parliament to be subject to the Kings pleasure, to be correspondent (as they call it) to his will, in the middst of such evill counsels which now are predominant, there would little or no cure be left, but then all things that are most mischievous, would seem to be done by Law and Authority.

The third observation is this, with what an evill conscience these men undertook this worke: They that pretended to take Armes to defend their owne propriety, obtained a Commission to violate the propriety of others, they would take the assertion of the Lawes of the Land but assumed to them such a power, as was most contrary to that Law, to seize upon their persons without due processe, to impose upon their estates without consent, to take away some lives by the Law Martiall; and besides all this, without any Commission they intended to alter the government of the cittie, which is now governed by your owne Councell, by a Magistrate chosen by your selves, then to be governed by violence.

The fourth observation is this, that the mischievous effect of this Designe would not have ceased in the first nights worke, all the godly part in the Kingdome, all faithfull Ministers especially, would have been left not onely to the scorne and reproach, but to the hatred, malice and crueltie of the Papists, and Malignants.

The fifth and last observation I shall make to you, is this, that this matter was prosecuted in part, and agitated and promoted by those that were sent from the King, and seemed to bee Messengers of peace; and while wee should be amazed with pretences of gracious Messages, to propose peace, this villainous project, which should have set you all in bloud was promoted by those Messengers, and should have been put in execution very shortly after. This is all I shall trouble you with by way of observation.

The matters resolved on in the House of Commons, are these things: First, that there bee publique thanksgiving to God, both in the Cittie, and throughout the Kingdome for this great deliverance, that a neare day be appointed for the Citie, the Parliament, and the parts adjacent, and a convenient day for other parts of the Kingdome. The next thing resolved on, was, that the House of Peeres, they should be made acquainted with these proofes, and withall this discoverie, which hath been done accordingly. It was likewise resolved, that there should be a Covenant made, whereby we should both testifie our detestation of this mischievous plot, and joine our selves more closely in the maintenance of the common interest of the Church and Common-wealth, in Religion and Libertie, which are still in great danger, and would have been utterly subverted, if this project had taken effect. It was resolved on in

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the fourth place, which is now partly executed, that this should be communicated to you of the Citie, that so as you have a great part in the blessing, you may have your part in the dutie of thankfulnesse, together with us. It is further resolved, that it shall be communicated to the Armie, that they likewise take notice of this great mercy of God, and joine with us, both in the thanksgiving and in the protestation and Covenant, as we shall likewise desire you of the Citie to doe.

Then we are commanded to give thanks to the Lord Major, to the Sheriffes, and the rest of the Officiers of the Citie, for their great care in the apprehending of these persons, in guarding the peace and the quiet of the Citie.

We are are likewise to give thanks those Gentlemen, that have had the custodie of these prisoners; we know it cannot but be a trouble to them, there was no meanes to keep them safe from messages one to another, and from speeches, but by such a way of putting them in honest mens hands; The House of Commons have commanded us, to give them speciall thanks that they would undertake this care, and to assure them that they will see them fully recompenced for all the trouble, and charge they shall undergoe by it.

And we are to give you thanks, which are the Citizens of this Citie, for your good affections to the publike cause, and for your continuall bountie for the support of it.

Thus farre we are enjoined by the resolution of the House: Now we are further to intreat you, to heare both the Covenants, you shall thereby know, to what we have bound our selves, and to what we desire you should be bound; there are two Covenants, that is, one proper for the Houses of Parliament, which hath been taken in the House of Commons by all the Members, by those Gentlemen that are named in those examinations to have been privy to this plot, which they all have disavowed; and the other Covenant is to be taken by all the other part of the Kingdome, by the Citizens, by the Army, and the rest of the people generally in all places.

The draught of these two Covenants we shall communicate to you; the House of Lords they have had them already, and have taken them into consideration; and we heare, they doe resolve that, which is appointed for them, shall be taken by the Members of that House.

We are further to desire you, that you would be serviceable to the Divine providence, to Gods great mercy to this Citie, and the whole Kingdome: God doth not onely doe good, but thereby gives assurance that he will doe good; His mercies they are comforts for the present, they are pledges for the future; but yet our care must not cease.

We are to desire that you would keep your guards, and look well to your City, and that you would find out these evill members that are among you, as neare as may bee, that so for the time to come this plot may be prevented, as hitherto hath been stopped, for out of doubt all the malignitie is not drawn out of them, though the present opportunitie is hindred for the present of putting it in execution.

I am to tell you further, that in desire to win those that shall be taken with remorse for this wicked Designe and Conspiracie: It is resolved, that if any man shall come in before the 15. day of this present June, and freely confesse his fault, and what he knowes of this conspiracy, that he shall have a full and free, and pleanry pardon for the time to come, except those that are already taken or fled; I say, those that come in voluntarily shall be pardoned.

Your care, and our care, they will be all little enough; we hope Gods blessing will bee so upon them both, that you shall be restored to a full peace, and that in the meane time you shall enjoy such a degree of safety and prosperity, as may make way to it.

FINIS.